



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

December 12, 2006

Via electronic delivery: [ron@hemig-erle.com](mailto:ron@hemig-erle.com)

Mr. J. Ron Hemig  
Board President  
Truckee Donner Public Utility District  
11570 Donner Pass Road  
Truckee, California 96161

Dear Mr. Hemig,

I am writing to express my concern about an upcoming vote by the Truckee Donner Public Utility District to sign a fifty year contract to purchase unclean and polluting coal power in Utah. Although I understand the need for a reliable supply of power, coal is not the answer and in the long-term will carry with it disastrous economic *and* environmental consequences.

This contract will undoubtedly compromise the progress California made this year by signing into law one of the most sweeping greenhouse gas reduction efforts in the world. Moreover, this vote is clearly an attempt to circumvent Senate Bill 1368, before it goes into effect.

From a reduction in snow pack to increased forest fire risk – the science on the devastating impacts of climate change is clear. Truckee has a financial interest in helping to avoid the impending climate crisis. As you know, tourism is the foundation of Truckee's economy, accounting for nearly 60 percent of local jobs. It is no secret that the loss of the winter ski season would be devastating to residents and businesses.

Over the past two weeks municipal utilities from Burbank, Pasadena and Riverside backed out of similar contracts with the same coal plant after hearing from ratepayers and other advocates concerned with the financial uncertainty of the contracts and the environmental impacts of coal energy. These utilities have instead opted to invest in cleaner technologies which will comply with the letter and spirit of SB 1368.

I urge you to join California's other forward-looking municipalities in using cleaner and renewable sources of electric generation to meet the needs of the economy, while protecting our environmental resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger in black ink.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

cc: Truckee Donner Public Utility District Board Members

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